

“Serving Those Who Served”

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Vol. 2 Issue 8

June 2001

Spokane Veterans Home a Reality

Eastern Washington Veterans Will Finally Have a Place to Call Home

The number one priority of the state’s veteran community for more than a decade will now be a reality, as Spokane will be the site of a home for Eastern Washington veterans.

The Spokane Veterans Home – set to open as early as September, 2001 – will provide skilled nursing care to 100 Washington state veterans in the facility formerly known as St. Luke’s Extended Care Center. The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs will operate the home. The home will be staffed by state employees – consistent with the state’s other two facilities: the Washington Veterans Home at Retsil; and the Washington Soldiers Home and Colony at Orting.

The idea to use St. Luke’s as a veterans home was originally proposed by Congressman George Nethercutt, R-Spokane. Nethercutt contacted federal VA officials, who in turn contacted WDVA.

“For years, providing care to veterans in Eastern Washington has been the priority of the entire state veteran population,” said John King, WDVA Director. “Many of our leaders in the veterans community – WDVA included –



The entrance to the Spokane Veterans Home

have been hard at work for the past four to five years, setting the stage for an Eastern Washington veterans home and waiting for an opportunity to present itself.

“When this came open, we were ready for it.”

Funding to open the home was included in the recently passed state budget and authorization was provided with the passage of House Bill 2227. The bill was co-prime sponsored by state Rep. John Ahern, R-Spokane, and state Rep. Jeff Gombosky, D-Spokane.

The new home will be adjacent to a major medical campus in Spokane – known to the local community as “Pill Hill.” Since it will be within the service area of the Spokane VA Medical Center, the VAMC will provide primary medical care and other cost-savings opportunities.

“This is a state-of-the-art facility,” said King referring to its 1986 construction. “It’s clean, spacious and very well-maintained.

“And getting a site to locate a veterans home ready for us to move into – without having to build anything – is a wonderful opportunity for all veterans,” added King. “We couldn’t have asked for a better start-up scenario.”

King doesn’t anticipate any problems in finding willing residents for the new home either, as a recent informal survey conducted by the Spokane VAMC revealed at least 100 veterans occupied community nursing home beds in the Spokane area. During the 2000 calendar year, Spokane VAMC discharge planners placed 78 veterans into Medicaid beds in the Spokane area alone.

King also praised the cooperation and hard work put forward by the state Department of Social and Health Services, as well as Spokane VAMC Director Joe Manley and his staff.

“Seldom do good policy and good politics go together,” he added, “but that’s certainly the case here. What a wonderful opportunity for veterans, our staff and our entire agency.”

The Master Plan

In response to the state Legislature – and to meet the needs of the changing veteran population – WDVA’s Master Plan contains three main components:

- Long-term care will be consolidated at the Washington Veterans Home at Retsil by building a new, 240-bed skilled nursing facility to replace current skilled beds at Retsil and Orting.
- The Washington Soldiers Home and Colony at Orting will evolve into a comprehensive, short-term rehabilitation facility serving younger, mostly homeless veterans. The campus will serve up to 210 veterans at any one time, with an average length of stay of four to six months.
- The Spokane Veterans Home – set to open as early as September, 2001 – will provide skilled nursing care to 100 Washington state veterans in the facility formerly known as St. Luke’s Extended Care Center. The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs will operate the home.



Nearly 100 veteran leaders gathered at the Spokane VAMC to hear the announcement of the Spokane Veterans Home.

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Moving Forward on the Master Plan

I hope you're as excited as I am about the good news surrounding the opening of the Spokane Veterans Home (*see page one*). We anticipate accepting residents as soon as this September and are looking forward to finally serving veterans living in Eastern Washington.

Plans to build a new, 240-bed skilled nursing facility at Retsil are still on track. The state Legislature came through with \$16.5 million in spending authority and steps are already underway to secure the 65-percent federal match.

The third component of the agency's master plan deals with changing the mission of the Washington Soldiers Home from long-term care, to one dedicated to providing comprehensive, short-term rehabilitation services to younger, mostly homeless veterans.

There is broad support in the veterans community and the general public, to help younger veterans by offering them a hand up, as opposed to a handout. The future of Orting will provide that opportunity. However, at the same time there will still be a need for more extensive care at the Soldiers Home because some residents are simply not capable of caring for themselves outside of the home environment.

As we move forward, please keep in mind the master plan charts a general direction for veterans and WDVA, with the specific path yet to be determined. Construction on the Retsil facility is still a few years away and the mission of Orting – once it's defined through community, veteran and legislative input – will evolve over the next three to five years.

Good things continue to happen for veterans and it's only possible with the veteran community's leadership and influence.

WDVA Strategic Goals

- ◆ Improve the quality of care and services for veterans and their families.
- ◆ Continue investing in staff, and provide the tools that result in high-quality services.
- ◆ Maximize resources to honor the nation's debt to veterans.
- ◆ Review core processes to anticipate and influence future needs.

1999 Legislative mandates for WDVA

- Forecast the future demand for nursing, assisted living, domiciliary and community-based rehabilitative care;
- Determine the most cost-effective role for the state to address the future demand;
- Analyze costs and benefits of consolidating Western Washington veterans home operations – including proposed alternative uses for the other campus if operations are consolidated;
- Explore options to provide skilled nursing and assisted living in Eastern Washington; and
- Assess alternatives for providing rehabilitative care to younger veterans.

WDVA Hires New Quality Manager

Christine (Chris) Touris began working with the agency on Feb. 12 as the Quality and Strategic Planning Manager.

Touris, formerly with the Director of General Administration for Lewis County, has 22 years of experience in leadership, management, communication and team building, including seven years in the United States Air Force quality and strategic planning environment. In the Air Force, she was involved in leading, facilitating and coordinating the Senior Non-Commissioned Officers Academy in quality and strategic planning. While a chief master sergeant in the Air Force, Touris earned a Ph.D. in Educational Administration and Leadership from the University of Southern California.



Harris accepts HR Manager Position

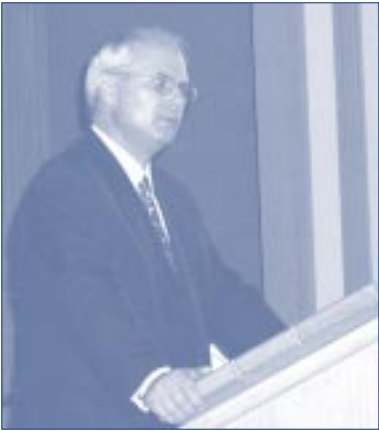
Acting Human Resource Manager, Evelyn Harris, has accepted the permanent position of Human Resource Manager. Her appointment took effect May 22.

Harris has been at WDVA since its inception in 1977. After serving as the agency's personnel officer, she assumed the position of Acting HR Manager during the agency's 5-month search for a new HR manager.

Director John King said, "Evelyn has proven to be a consummate professional and will use her many years of experience to help lead this agency in the implementation of our Master Plan."



French Give Thanks for Liberation



French Deputy Consul General Bruno Guerquin

More than 300 veterans and citizens joined together for a Moment of Remembrance Advance Candlelighting Ceremony, May 21, at The United Churches in Olympia.

Lt. Gov.

Brad Owen presided over this annual, pre-Memorial Day event designed to promote and encourage participation of Washington’s citizens in paying tribute to U.S. servicemen and women who fought – and lost their lives – for America’s freedom.

Providing support were the U.S. Marine Corps 4th LANSPTBN from Ft. Lewis and the Gospel Outreach Choir of Olympia.

Lighting this year’s candle with Lt. Gov. Owen was Catherine Cresto Vyverberg of Spokane. Vyverberg served in the Women’s Army Corps during World War II as a high-

speed radio operator and was stationed in Europe following D-Day.

French Deputy Consul General Bruno Guerquin paid tribute to all World War II veterans who participated in the Invasion of Normandy – and the liberation of France – by issuing certificates in a program called “Thank You America.” Senator Alex Deccio, R-Yakima, accepted the certificate on behalf of the more than 400 Washington residents who qualified for the award.

The Washington State World War II



Catherine Cresto Vyverberg and Lt. Gov. Brad Owen light the Remembrance Candle.



Amy Halstead of Mossyrock High School was awarded the WWII Educational Foundation Scholarship.

Educational Foundation presented their 2001 scholarship awards to Amy Halstead of Mossyrock High School, and runner-up Miriam Weinrich of Puyallup High School.

The candlelighting began in 1997 as part of a national unity effort to promote a symbolic act of unity – the National Moment of Remembrance – at 3:00 p.m. local time on Memorial Day.

Tahoma National Cemetery Volunteers Honored



Max Diamond receives his Veteran Guardian Angel pin from Ryan Dicks of U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell’s office, during a recognition ceremony June 9, at the Washington Soldiers Home.

Certificate of Appreciation

In recognition, appreciation and gratitude for the unselfish gift of respect and honor you provide to the Veterans of Washington State.

The brave men and women who served our country all over the world, deserve our respect and eternal gratitude and should be laid to rest with the honor and dignity they deserve.

The state of Washington recognizes and applauds you. Be it decreed this day, June 9, 2001, and from this day forward, you shall be known as a member of the Tahoma National Cemetery’s elite group of “Veteran Guardian Angels.”

You are cordially invited to the annual

*Wreathlaying Ceremony
Commemorating the Korean War
Armistice Anniversary*

*July 21, 11:00 a.m.
Korean War Veterans Memorial
Capitol Campus
Olympia, WA*

Featured participants include:

- A special appearance by the Korean American Cultural Society, a group of Korean University students from Seoul, Korea, who will pay tribute with traditional dance to Washington Korean War veterans and remember those who gave their lives for freedom.*
- Consul General Byung-rok Moon*
- Lt. Governor Brad Owen*
- MG Nam Pyo Park (ROK ret)*
- Mayor Michael Park of Federal Way*
- 2001 Lakefair Court*
- Gospel Outreach Choir of Olympia*
- Washington State National Guard*
- The name of SFC Joseph William Hynes to be unveiled*

The public is invited to participate by bringing wreaths and flowers to lay.

Young people and children will have the opportunity to lay flowers, which will be provided.

For information call Colleen Gilbert (360) 725-2180

Toll-Free Agent Orange Helpline Established for Vietnam Veterans

Vietnam veterans now have a new national toll-free helpline to answer questions about Agent Orange exposure, health care and benefits.

The new helpline – 1-800-749-8387 – is part of the continuing efforts of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to reach America’s 2.3 million Vietnam veterans.

Callers can speak directly to VA representatives Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., CST, or access a 24-hour automated system. Callers can leave voice mail messages to obtain more information, or listen to recordings about exposure to Agent Orange, VA benefits, health care and disability compensation.

VA expects considerable interest in the helpline because of a proposed policy that allows Vietnam veterans with adult-onset (Type II) diabetes to receive disability compensation for ongoing medical problems linked to Agent Orange or other herbicides during the war. VA now recognizes 10 medical conditions as being associated with Agent Orange.

For more information log on to www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/herbicide.

On-line TRICARE Assistance

To locate or learn who/where your TRICARE Service Center is, go to - <http://www.tricare.sod.mil/tricarecenters/default.cfm>

Is your retail pharmacy part of the TRICARE network?

Go to http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/retail_network.htm.

TRICARE Help E-Mail Service (THEMS) at TRICARE_help@amedd.army.mil

To contact your Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator (BCAC), go to http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tricare/beneficiary/bcac_dir.doc

To contact your Debt Collection Assistance Office (DCAO), go to <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/dcao/>

To get a copy of the TRICARE Standard Handbook, go to <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/TricareHandbook/>

To obtain claims information, go to <http://www.tricare.sod.mil/ClaimForms/>

To get information on TRICARE after age 65, go to <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/ndaa>

To join a beneficiary discussion forum, go to <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/forums/index.cfm?cfapp=7>

Veterans Legislation Passed 2001 Legislative Session

SHB 1325 - Creating a joint committee on veterans’ and military affairs.
The Joint Committee on Veterans’ and Military Affairs (JCVMA) is created to study issues relating to veterans, active military forces, the National Guard, the Reserves, the Military Department and the Department of Veterans Affairs.
The committee terminates December 31, 2005.

HB 1716 – Providing income assistance benefits to qualified World War II veterans living in the Republic of the Philippines.
The bill provides a one-time, lump-sum payment of \$1,500 to certain Filipino veterans of World War II who are recipients of the SSI state supplement as of December 14, 1999.

HJM 4002 - Asking that the federal government provide veterans’ benefits owed to Filipino veterans.
The Senate and House of Representatives of the state of Washington petition the President and Congress of the United States to amend the Rescission Act of 1946 to restore Filipino veterans full United States veteran status with military benefits.

SSB 5263 - Changing provisions relating to employment rights of members of reserve and national guard forces.
Members of military uniformed services, or applicants for membership in such services, cannot be denied employment, reemployment, job retention, promotion or any benefit of employment on the basis of military service.

Status of WDVA’s Master Plan

SHB 2227 - Establishing the Eastern Washington Veterans Home (*signed into law June 15*).

The WDVA is authorized to operate and manage the Eastern Washington veteran home (named the Spokane Veterans Home) in the same manner as other state veterans homes are operated and managed.

Capital Budget:

- Funding is included for replacement construction at the Washington Veterans Home.
- Authorization is provided for WDVA to purchase a nursing home in Easteran Washington (Spokane Veterans Home).

Operating Budget:

- Start-up funding for the Easteran Washington veterans home (Spokane Veterans Home) is included. WDVA is required to reimburse the state for this start-up funding in the second year of the biennium.

For additional information, contact WDVA Legislative Liaison, Heidi Audette, at 360-725-2154 or log on to www.dva.wa.gov.

VA Establishes Claims Processing Task Force

Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Anthony J. Principi, has established a special Claims Processing Task Force to examine ways to speed up the claims process. Principi aims to bring the current seven-month processing time down to 74 days.

“The president promised a top-to-bottom review of our claims processing and I have made it one of my top priorities,” said Principi. “The benefits veterans seek from VA were earned by their sacrifice and, sometimes, their suffering.

“When we handle their claims, we should use the best processes available.”

The 11-person task force, headed by retired Vice Admiral Daniel L. Cooper, will examine a wide range of issues affecting the speedy processing of claims, from medical examinations and information technology, to efforts to shrink the backlog and increase the accuracy of decisions.

The panel’s final report is expected to be delivered to Principi by mid-August of this year.

TREA Announces New Legislative Action Center

The Legislative Affairs Office of The Retired Enlisted Association recently created a Legislative Action Center designed to provide information on legislative issues vital to TREA membership. The LAC can be accessed at <http://www.capwiz.com/trea> or visit TREA’s Web Site at <http://www.trea.org>.

Cold War Recognition Certificate Available

For those who have not yet applied for – or did not know about – the Cold War Recognition Certificate, please visit <http://coldwar.army.mil/>. If you’ve already applied and have not received your certificate, patience is urged. Officials did not anticipate the number of requests and a 12-month turn-around is not uncommon.

Concurrent Receipt Update

The provisions of concurrent receipt require a dollar-for-dollar offset of authorized VA disability compensation from an individual’s military retirement payment. Military retirement is the only federal employee retirement income impacted by the provisions of concurrent receipt.

In January 2001, Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) and Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) introduced legislation to end the practice of deducting disability compensation from a veteran’s longevity retirement pay - S. 170 and H.R. 303 are both entitled the Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2001.

Because such measures do impact the budget, even with the legislation it would be necessary for funding to be included in the budget. On April 5, 2001, the Senate approved an amendment introduced by Sen. Reid to provide funding in the budget resolution to pay for concurrent receipt legislation as contained in H.R. 303 and S. 170. However, on May 3, 2001, the Reid amendment was removed from the conference report on the budget resolution. Consequently, there is currently no funding for concurrent receipt.

While it is still possible for the legislation to move through Congress, removal from the conference report does make passage more challenging.

Bush Signs WWII Monument Bill

WASHINGTON - President Bush honored America’s veterans May 28 with the Memorial Day signing of legislation to construct a World War II monument on the National Mall.

Addressing an audience of veterans in the yellow-curtained East Room, the president also announced creation of a task force that will recommend major reforms in delivery of health care to veterans and military retirees.

The president said the monument between the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial “will stand for the ages.”

“I will make sure the monument gets built,” the president told the applauding veterans, among them former Sen. Bob Dole, who fought for the memorial.

Critics have said the design for the memorial is too grandiose and would clutter the Mall and obstruct the sweeping views.

Taking note of the controversy after the bill signing, Bush said in a written statement, “Now that debate over the site and basic design is concluded, the time has come for all concerned ... to act with the same determination and sense of common purpose so wonderfully displayed by those we honor.”

Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, a World War II veteran and a chief backer of the project, said after the bill passed that it eliminated all judicial challenges.

“World War II veterans are dying at the rate of about 1,100 each day,” Bush said recently. “It is time to give them the memorial they deserve.”

World War II Memorial: <http://www.wwiimemorial.com/>
(Source: Associated Press)

Retirees and Family Members Urged to Donate Blood

Did you know:

- The Department of Defense maintains an active blood donor program;
- Military blood donor centers need to collect over 110,000 units of whole blood annually to support their needs;
- Military hospitals transfuse 62,000 units of red cells and 50,000 units of other blood components annually; and
- Less than 5 percent of people eligible to donate actually do.

The Armed Services Blood Bank Center - Pacific Northwest (ASBBC-PNW) is the only military blood donor center operating in the northwest region of the United States. Because blood products have a limited shelf life, donors are in continuous demand.

Whole blood donors may donate at any one of the many ASBBC-PNW mobile drives or every Thursday at the Madigan Army Medical Center Nursing Tower (first floor).

The ASSBC-PNW also operates a special platelet donor program which supports patients with unique needs such as leukemia or cancer.

For more information on blood and platelet donations, call (253) 968-1907. To sponsor a blood drive, call (253) 968-1903.



Rules Published for VA’s Diabetes-Agent Orange Benefits

Vietnam veterans with “Type II” diabetes are closer to receiving disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with the formal publication of the rules that will allow VA to provide benefits to those veterans.

“The hazards of the battlefield include more than bullets and shells,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. “As our understanding of the health risks faced by our military personnel increases, VA will adjust its programs and benefits to fit the needs of veterans.”

Principi’s announcement came as the *Federal Register* published VA’s final rules for benefits for Vietnam veterans with “Type II” diabetes. Under federal law, those rules don’t take effect for 60 days. However, VA offices are already accepting claims from eligible Vietnam veterans.

Veterans affected by the new rules will receive a priority for VA health care, and depending upon the severity of their illnesses, disability compensation that ranges from \$101 to \$2,107 monthly.

A report in November by the National Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Medicine found “limited/suggestive” evidence of a link between adult-onset – or Type II diabetes – and Agent Orange and other herbicides used in Vietnam.

VA estimates approximately 9 percent of the 2.3 million Vietnam veterans still alive have Type II diabetes. The illness is characterized by high blood sugar levels caused by the body’s inability to process the hormone insulin. Approximately 16 percent of veterans currently receiving care in VA medical facilities have been diagnosed with diabetes.

Cost of the new benefit during the next five years is projected to be \$3.3 billion, with approximately 220,000 veterans receiving benefits.

For more information, contact WDVA at 1-800-562-2308 or log on to: <http://www.va.gov/health/diabetes/default.htm>

Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

VETERANS OF “Honoring the Dead

VFW Volunteers and the Homes

A key element of VFW membership involvement is community service.

VFW Volunteers spent 262,855 hours performing community service in Washington state last year. According to Department of Washington VFW headquarters, that did not include the 5,028 hours spent at the Tahoma National Cemetery, or the more than 68,000 hours spent at the VA hospitals – including the Washington Veterans Home and Washington Soldiers Home and Colony.

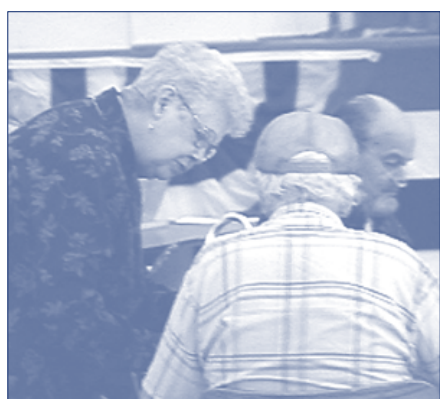
“Any time I need anything – people, refreshments, supplies for recreation – anything, I know the VFW will help,” said Soldiers Home Activities director, Lynn Zemke.

Besides hosting bingo, blackjack and Reno Day, they hold fishing derbies at Orting, pizza parties and are always on hand for all the holiday parties and patriotic events – like Memorial Day and Veterans Day – said Zemke.

“Without the VFW volunteers’ support, we wouldn’t have the programs for our residents,” added Zemke.

At the Washington Veterans Home, the VFW is just as visible, according to Activities Director Catherine Shaw.

A lifter seat recently donated to a patient with Huntington’s Disease was part of the community service performed by the Skyway VFW that won them “Outstanding Local



Project” in USA WEEKEND’s 10th annual Make a Difference Day last Oct. 28.

The National VFW Community Service Program supports community service with materials and guidelines designed to encourage service in the local community, promoting civic pride and community betterment.



BINGO “Duty”



Four times a week, Donald Steffen runs the bingo for the VFW Auxiliary at the Washington Soldiers Home and Colony. As he has done for the last five years, Steffen – a resident of Orting – has been volunteering his time for the VFW “because I wanted something to do and this seemed worthwhile.”

A native of South Dakota, Steffen did a tour of duty in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, before heading west to Centralia. While working as a welder at Pacific Car and Foundry, he said he still found time to get married, have four kids and

pursue his love of hunting, fishing and race cars.

In addition to his bingo duties, Steffen is also the meal time cashier for the dining hall, where for the last six years he answers the call three times a day, seven days a week.

“Don is so well-respected by both staff and residents,” said Lynn Zemke, WSH Activities Director. “He is such a pleasant and caring person, plus his expertise at everything he does makes him a real asset to everyone.”



Washington State VFW

- ★ State Commander 2001-2002 – Rae Jones (253) 922-2114
- ★ State Auxiliary President 2001-2002 – Patricia Rasmussen – (253) 926-1208
- ★ More than 36,000 members
- ★ 152 Posts
- ★ 106 Auxiliaries
- ★ 262,855 community service volunteer hours last year
- ★ more than 68,000 hospital volunteer hours last year
- ★ 5,028 Tahoma National Cemetery volunteer hours last year

National VFW

- ★ Eligibility Requirements – visit www.vfw.org
- ★ Operation Uplink – phone cards for active military and hospitalized veterans – 1-800-479-5228
- ★ VFW National Home – visit www.vfwnationalhome.org
- ★ National Headquarters
406 West 34th St
Kansas City, Missouri 64111
1-816-756-3390

Operation Uplink Helps Them Call Home

VFW’s *Operation Uplink* prepaid, long-distance phone cards provide a way to show hospitalized veterans, or active duty personnel, that the folks back home really do care.

“*Operation Uplink* brings a touch of home to my son and thousands of others serving our country overseas,” said VA Secretary Anthony Principi.

For additional information contact: Operation Uplink, VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th St, Suite 219, Kansas City, MO 64111. E-mail: uplink@vfw.org

FOREIGN WARS

ed by Helping the Living”

VFW and Youth Development

Four cornerstones of the VFW foundation include preserving veterans’ rights, advocating a strong national defense, promoting patriotism and offering community service.

Each year, the VFW – along with the Ladies’ Auxiliary – provides more than \$2.7 million in scholarships and more than 8 million hours of volunteer service nationally (see www.vfw.org).

Locally, VFW posts promote many youth activities, including the Boy Scouts of America, ROTC and Special Olympics, said State Adjutant Richard Keeton. In addition, he pointed out a strong involvement in safety programs such as auto and bicycle safety, and programs dealing with drug awareness and substance abuse.

“The area at the forefront of our Americanism program this year centers around the national youth essay contest for 7th – 9th grade students,” Keeton said. “VFW Post and Auxiliary 9430 sponsored the national winner this year, Gillian Linman from Seattle.”

Linman will travel to the VFW National Convention held in Milwaukee, Wis. this August, where she will be presented with a \$10,000 US Savings Bond.

For additional information about the VFW or any programs they sponsor, call VFW’s Youth Development director, Gordon Thorson (253) 922-2114 or visit www.vfw.org.

“What Does It Mean To Be Patriotic?”

2000-2001 VFW First Place National Youth Essay Winner

Gillian M. Linman

Seattle, Washington

Sponsored by VFW Post 9430 and Ladies Auxiliary



Many people think that being patriotic means celebrating the Fourth of July, but it is more. Most see patriotism as fighting in a war or dying for their country, but it can also be something less obvious. The truth is, being patriotic is not simply shooting off fireworks: Patriotism is defending, supporting, and dedicating oneself to their country.

Throughout our country’s history, many people lost their lives defending it. From the Revolutionary War, when America fought to gain its freedom, through the twentieth century, when America fought for the freedom of others, millions of Americans risked and lost their lives to uphold their patriotic beliefs. During World War II, millions of men went to battle and fought patriotically, while others, mostly women, also helped in the struggle. They went to work in industry to build the machines of war and keep America running. Patriotism, revealed through defending one’s country, is more than just fighting and dying. It is doing whatever it takes to serve one’s country and maintain its success.

Fighting for one’s country is definitely a form of patriotism, but wars do not happen everyday. Simple things people do daily can be patriotic. Paying taxes, for instance, is a basic way of showing support because it funds the government. Serving on jury duty is supportive, because without this system our courts could not function. Obeying laws can be patriotic because doing so helps to maintain order. Patriotism is clearly demonstrated through the supportive duties of citizens during their daily lives.

Having a patriotic spirit means living with dedication and principles throughout a lifetime. It means feeling pride, showing pride and having confidence in what it stands for. Adlai Stevenson stated that living with patriotism is: “...to walk with it in serenity and wisdom, with self respect and the respect of mankind; a patriotism that puts country ahead of self; a patriotism which is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotions, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime.” True patriotism involves a complete dedication to one’s country.

It is clear that being patriotic is more than celebrating a holiday. It means defending one’s country regardless of cost. It means supporting one’s country through the common responsibilities of citizenship. It means the steady dedication of oneself to their country for a lifetime. Although the demands of patriotism to one’s country are great, the reward is a great country.



VFW Scouting Program



Voice of Democracy

Remembering POW/MIAs



In 1986, the Washington state POW/MIA Concerned Citizens Association was founded by VFW State Adjutant, Richard Keeton and Delores Alfond of the National Alliance of Families.

“I firmly believe there are POWs alive,” said Keeton. “We have to remember that this country has an obligation to continue to do everything it can to bring them home.”

One of the ways members remember is by holding a ceremony at the Washington Memorial Cemetery in SeaTac every third Friday in September – National POW/MIA Day – to pay tribute to the thousands of unaccounted for servicemen and women, as well as to deposit bracelets bearing the names of POW/MIAs brought home.

According to state POW/MIA Chairman Darrell Pilot, “this repository is the only one of its kind in the nation, and is opened once a year at the annual ceremony.”

Dedicated in Sept. 1992, the memorial was built and maintained by the Memorial Cemetery, at the request and guidance of VFW post 1263.

When asked about their dedication and passion to this cause, Keeton and Pilot – both Vietnam veterans – agreed it’s a combination of reasons: survivor guilt, the need to provide closure for families back home, and both firmly believe, “without a shadow of a doubt,” that there are still POWs alive, waiting to be brought back home.

This year’s ceremony will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, September 21, at the Memorial Cemetery’s POW/MIA memorial. For more information call (253) 922-2114.



Vanessa Gaston was appointed the new Associate Superintendent for the Washington Soldiers Home and Colony in Orting. Former Soldiers Home Associate Superintendent Gary Condra moved to the WDVA Central Office to develop and implement the business plan for the new Spokane Veterans Home (see page one), as well as serve as the agency's federal and state budget expert.

Gaston – selected from 59 applicants – previously served as Administrator for Rainier Valley Community Service Office for the Department of Social and Health Services. She is a third generation veteran, graduated with a bachelor's degree in Organizational Development from Evergreen State College in 1995 and will receive her master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Washington in June 2001.

Gaston started her new position at Orting on June 18.

Home

Memorial Day 2001

The Washington Soldiers Home and Colony Memorial Day program brought smiles, tears and memories to the veterans and families filling the auditorium at Orting.

As the 62nd Airlift Wing colorguard posted the colors, 84 year-old Bryce Lilly, an Air Force veteran of WWII and American Ex-POW, sang the National Anthem.



62nd Airlift Wing Color Guard



Bryce Lilly sings the National Anthem.



Colonel Darren McDew



Local VSOs present memorial wreaths

The Puyallup Community Band, directed by Rush Ward, provided the music throughout the ceremony, including TAPS and the Armed Forces songs.

Colonel Darren McDew – Commander of the 62nd Airlift Wing at McChord AFB – delivered the keynote address.

“I wish we could proclaim our planet at peace,” said McDew. “But, we can’t. Along with the great triumphs, there have been great disasters, so today, we honor all Americans who died defending our country and values.”

“We dedicate this day to them.”

Street Talk... with residents of the WA Soldiers Home

What was the best 4th of July you’ve had?



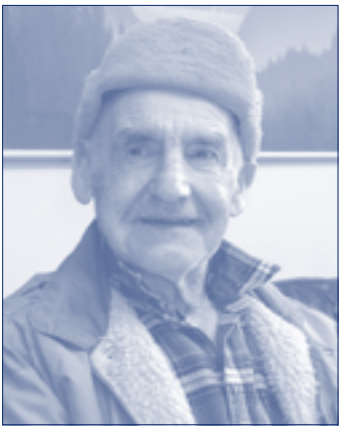
“I grew up on a farm in Ephrata, so spending the day in the park, having family gatherings and watching the fireworks were a real treat.”

Robert J. Hill



“I can’t remember the year, but we were watching a ‘lighter than air’ aircraft, when all of the sudden the wings went up and the plane came down. Actually, I think the best ones are when after it’s over, no one is hurt.”

Avis Prater



“I like the sky rockets and seeing them go up in the air back home in Randall. I still watch them now. I remember shooting off cap guns at my aunt’s.”

George Gardner



“I like to see other people celebrate. I don’t celebrate the 4th because I spent too many years in the Army Air Corps hearing boom-boom-boom.”

Gene Perkins



“I liked the picnics. My brothers and sisters and I used to go across a meadow to a point that overlooked Lake Pend Oreille and watch the fireworks.”

Norman Barfuss

Highlights

Before more than 300 people, Lourdes “Alfie” Alvarado-Ramos gave the keynote address to the audience at the Washington Veterans Home.

Following the address, Alvarado and Superintendent Bob Jones presented “Thank You America” certificates on behalf of the French government to those residents who participated in the D-Day invasion and the liberation of France during WWII.

The Stars and Stripes, a song and dance group, performed a number of patriotic songs, in honor of all veterans. The Bremerton High School

ROTC provided the color guard, the Navy Quintet performed prelude music, VFW Post 2669 provided the rifle squad and Resident Council Chairman Dale Colbert acted as Master of Ceremonies.

In closing, a pictorial roll call of those residents who died over the past year was shown as the song *Wind Beneath My Wings* was played.



Alfie Alvarado-Ramos presents Robert E. Smith with a “Thank You America” certificate from the French government.



Redmond Bunker



Mrs. William Walls



William Mulvihill



Eugene Wyman



Stars and Stripes singing group



Arthur Granstrom



Vance Johnson

Towne Receives Leadership Award



Washington Soldiers Home and Colony Superintendent Jerry Towne was selected as a **Sustaining Leader for the 2001 Governor’s Distinguished Management Leadership Award.**

Towne was recognized by the governor for his ability as a respected leader, as well as his positive influence on the WDVA. He was singled out as a leader who fosters a culture of participation by setting the example.

Retsil Cemetery gets new look

The Kitsap Master Gardeners Club provided a new look to the two flowerbeds at the Retsil Veterans cemetery, and will maintain the beds throughout the season.

Four companies and a small contingent of volunteers also worked in the cemetery. Equipment, trees, bushes and labor was provided by Asplundh, Puget Sound Energy, WSU Master Gardeners and Kitsap County Alternative to Detention.

Asplundh brought in heavy equipment and cut down and removed three very tall, old trees. Then approximately 200 donated, small trees and bushes were planted along the fence lines.

On behalf of the Washington Veterans Home and the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, “Thank You for a job well done.”



WDVA Veteran Services Update

VCSC/Field Services Update

Veteran Community Services Coordinators (VCSCs) are continuing to develop their networks for referral and assistance in their respective congressional districts. They are coordinating Veterans Information and Assistance Fairs throughout the state and working with the tribes to ensure the word gets out on what benefits veterans and their families are eligible for, as well as applying for and receiving benefits.

For the VCSC or Field Service Office in your area, contact Program Manager Richard Stewart at 360-478-4565, or call toll-free at 1-800-562-2308.

As part of WDVA’s ongoing effort to bring services *to* veterans in the community, Information and Assistance Fairs are scheduled throughout the summer and fall in order to provide veterans the opportunity to obtain information on service-connected disability, vocational rehabilitation, VA healthcare enrollment, survivor and burial benefits and other services.

Specific times and locations are still being scheduled. For more information, contact Richard Stewart at 360-478-4565 or call toll-free at 1-800-562-2308.

Date	Location
July 18	Olympia
July 20	Tri-Cities
July 21	Whatcom Community College
August 9	Walla Walla
August 9	Ocean Shores
August 12	Skagit Valley College
August 17	Wenatchee
August 22	Tacoma
September 6	Shelton Armory
September 15	Evergreen Fairgrounds
September 20	Gig Harbor
September 27	Tacoma

VCSCs	Phone	E-mail
Tim Reid		
Dist.2	360-319-8486	ideashare@home.com
Lonnie James		
Dist. 4	509-457-2151	ljames@nwinfo.net
Gene Foley		
Dist. 5	509-529-7405	geneutta@bmi.net
Lynda Reese		
Dist. 6	360-478-4565	lynda@dva.wa.gov
Cherise McArthur		
Dist. 9	360-478-4565	cherisem@dva.wa.gov
Richard Stewart		
Program Manager	360-478-4565	richards@dva.wa.gov

Bremerton Office 1-877-747-2784

Staff updates

Congratulations to Ric Price for being selected as the WDVA King County Projects Manager. Price started his new position May 1, 2001. Veteran Benefits Specialist, Alex Deluao, took over Price’s previous position of Grants and Contracts Program Assistant.

Veterans Affairs Receives Grant Renewal for Homeless Veterans



Jim Rising

Ric Price

WDVA received notice from the federal Department of Labor - Veterans Employment and Training Services (USDOL) - that renewal of grant money for its Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project (HVRP) was approved for 2001.

The \$309,474 grant, designed for the Seattle metropolitan area and the

surrounding Puget Sound Region of King, Pierce, Thurston, Snohomish and Kitsap counties, is renewable annually based on the attainment of goals agreed upon by the USDOL and the WDVA.

“Under our reintegration project, the first step is to get homeless vets off the street and offer them the chance to get well,” said Jim Rising, WDVA Grants and Contracts Manager.

“Once they are employable, we design a structured case management plan to fit their individual needs of security, housing, food, transportation and employment support services,” added Rising. “This grant money allows us to continue this critical program.”

The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project – which serves Seattle and the Puget Sound Region – aims to strengthen all homeless veteran programs operating within the service delivery area. Since receiving grant money for the year 2000, the project found homes for 189 veterans and placed 217 in unsubsidized employment.

Did You Know?

With the present U.S. Department of Labor grant renewal as a landmark in the program, Jim Rising, along with a consortium of other homeless providers from the VA and King County, is developing a grant request to provide services to homeless women veterans. There is a special fund out of Department of Labor dedicated to this area. The work going into this joint venture is extensive and Vet Services is hoping to receive the funding this fall.

U.S. DEPT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - REGIONAL OFFICE SEATTLE
1-800-827-1000

Henry M. Jackson Federal Bldg., 915 Second Ave, Seattle WA 98174

NATIONAL & DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICERS:

VARO Seattle, Federal Bldg.,
915 Second Ave, Seattle WA 98174

The American Legion 1-877-249-4386

Room 962B (206) 220-6223 FAX: 220-6104

Disabled American Veterans 1-877-273-4606

Room 1058 (206) 220-6225 FAX: 628-8945

Veterans of Foreign Wars 1-877-805-1331

Room 1040 (206) 220-6191 FAX: 220-6241

Vietnam Veterans of America 1-877-292-8735

Room 1048 (206) 220-6731 FAX: 220-4669

Paralyzed Veterans of America 1-800-795-3576

Room 1062 (206) 220-6175 FAX: 220-6136

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Room 962C (206) 220-6230 FAX: 220-6207

WDVA / American Ex-POWs

Room 962A (206) 220-6145 FAX: 220-4667

AMVETS (253) 472-1966 FAX: 472-2822

5717 So. Tyler Tacoma WA 98409

America, The Good Neighbor

Gordon Sinclair
Sunday, Jan. 21, 2001

Widespread but only partial news coverage was given recently to a remarkable editorial broadcast from Toronto by Gordon Sinclair, a Canadian television commentator. What follows is the full text of his remarks as printed in the Congressional Record:

This Canadian thinks it is time to speak up for the Americans as the most generous and possibly the least-appreciated people on all the Earth.

Germany, Japan and, to a lesser extent, Britain and Italy were lifted out of the debris of war by the Americans, who poured in billions of dollars and forgave other billions in debts. None of these countries is today paying even the interest on its remaining debts to the United States.

When France was in danger of collapsing in 1956, it was the Americans who propped it up, and their reward was to be insulted and swindled on the streets of Paris. I was there. I saw it.

When earthquakes hit distant cities, it is the United States that hurries in to help. This spring, 59 American communities were flattened by tornadoes. Nobody helped.

The Marshall Plan and the Truman Policy pumped billions of dollars into discouraged countries. Now newspapers in those countries are writing about the decadent, warmongering Americans.

I'd like to see just one of those countries that is gloating over the erosion of the United States dollar build its own airplane. Does any other country in the world have a plane to equal the Boeing Jumbo Jet, the Lockheed Tri-Star, or the Douglas DC-10? If so, why don't they fly them? Why do all the international lines except Russia fly American planes?

Why does no other land on Earth even consider putting a man or woman on the moon? You talk about Japanese technocracy, and you get radios. You talk about German technocracy, and you get automobiles. You talk about American technocracy, and you find men on the moon – not once, but several times – and safely home again.

You talk about scandals, and the Americans put theirs right in the store window for everybody to look at. Even their draft-dodgers are not pursued and hounded. They are here on our streets, and most of them, unless they are breaking Canadian laws, are getting American dollars from ma and pa at home to spend here.

When the railways of France, Germany and India were breaking down through age, it was the Americans who rebuilt them. When the Pennsylvania Railroad and the New York Central went broke, nobody loaned them an old caboose. Both are still broke.

I can name you 5,000 times when the Americans raced to the help of other people in trouble. Can you name me even one time when someone else raced to the Americans in trouble? I don't think there was outside help even during the San Francisco earthquake.

Our neighbors have faced it alone, and I'm one Canadian who is damned tired of hearing them get kicked around. They will come out of this thing with their flag high. And when they do, they are entitled to thumb their nose at the lands that are gloating over their present troubles. I hope Canada is not one of those.

Stand proud, America!

Calendar of Events

4th of July Celebrations

July 4, 9 a.m.- Midnight
WA Soldiers Home, Orting
POC: Lynn Zemke (360) 893-4511

July 4, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
WA Veterans Home, Retsil
POC: Catherine Shaw (360) 895-4376

A Day at the Races

July 7, Emerald Downs
The Kent VFW is selling tickets for the view room at \$30.00 per person. This includes admission, coupon for race program, handicapping sheet, betting windows and buffet meal. The view room seats 75 people. Call now.
POC: Duane Hughes (206) 220-6230

Korean War Memorial Wreathlaying Ceremony

July 21, 11 a.m.
Korean War Memorial
Capitol Campus, Olympia
POC: Colleen Gilbert (360) 725-2180

Moving Wall Experience

Pre-Event Photo Exhibit
July 8-22 Bellevue Art Museum
The Wall, July 27-29
Sunset Hills Memorial Park
Bellevue, WA
Volunteers needed
POC: Roger Young (206) 932.7091

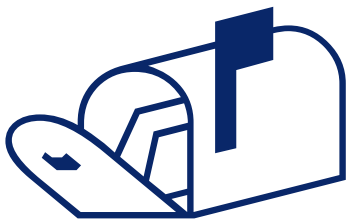
National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs 2001 Convention

Sept 15-23
Seattle, WA

***Veteran Voices** is published quarterly for the veterans of Washington State.*

If you, or someone you know, would like to receive the Veteran Voices, please fill out the information below and mail it to:

Veteran Voices
PO Box 41150
Olympia, WA 98504-1150
or e-mail this information to colleen@dva.wa.gov



Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ zip: _____

Is this your home, VSO or office? _____

Hats Off!



The *Veteran Voices* is printed for veteran advocates like Helmut “Brownie” Braunsteiner.

In addition to serving his country through three wars – and 30 years of active duty service – Brownie continued to serve veterans and their families with his tireless volunteer efforts for 30 years since.

He is the chair of the Pierce County Veterans Advisory Council, helped found the Veterans Independent Enterprises of Washington and spends countless hours volunteering at the Soldiers Home and Colony in Orting. Most important, his work with the Diabetes Association of Pierce County has saved lives.

And despite being diagnosed with terminal cancer, he continues to serve others. Brownie, you are an inspiration to all of us.

NOW, Eastern Washington Veterans have a place to call Home...

Are you searching for high-quality, long-term nursing or rehabilitative care? Are you a veteran?

If you’ve ever served in the Armed Forces, and are looking for long-term care, the Spokane Veterans Home may be a place for you to call home.

This newly built, state-of-the-art facility includes:

- ★ Skilled Nursing Care
- ★ Easy access to and from I-90
- ★ Close proximity to Spokane’s major health care center
- ★ Medical Transportation
- ★ Physical Therapy
- ★ Occupational Therapy
- ★ Recreational Programs
- ★ Religious Programs
- ★ Social Services
- ★ Laundry Services

To be eligible for admission to the Homes, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- ★ A veteran discharged under honorable conditions;
- ★ Washington state resident; and
- ★ Meet certain financial guidelines

For an application or more information, call the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs Centralized Admissions at: 1-877-VETS-R-US (1-877-838-7787)

**For employment opportunities call 1-800-562-2308
Visit the web site at www.dva.wa.gov**

The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs also operates two beautiful Homes in Western Washington: The Soldiers Home and Colony in Orting, located in the Puyallup Valley; and the Washington Veterans Home in Retsil, near Port Orchard overlooking Puget Sound. Both homes provide high-quality care for honorably discharged veterans.

“Serving Those Who Served”